

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01956 152111Z
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 AF-04 EUR-08 SSM-01
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O 152110Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1367
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01956

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, PLO, IS, LE, XF
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01956 152111Z

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: FRENCH ACTION ON ASSAULTS ON
UNIFIL

REF: A. STATE 117862; B. USUN 1906; C. USUN 1919

1. AT CLOSE OF CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT MAY 15,
AMB LEONARD RAISED PROBLEM OF UNIFIL OPERATIONS WITH

FRENCH AMB LEPRETTE. HE REVIEWED STEPS WE WERE TAKING IN TALKING TO A NUMBER OF ARAB GOVTS AND TO ISRAELIS AND, IN ADDITION TO ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS PLO, SUGGESTED THAT FRENCH APPROACH TO GOL ON IMPORTANCE OF MOVING SOME LEBANESE TROOPS SOUTH WOULD BE DESIRABLE.

2. LEPRETTE REPLIED THAT FRENCH HAD ALREADY MADE APPROACH TO SARKIS ON QUESTION OF LEBANESE FORCES IN SOUTH BUT THAT SARKIS HAD CLAIMED THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH TROOPS AVAILABLE TO SEND ANY SOUTH. LEPRETTE WAS CONCERNED THAT IF GOL DID NOT DO SOMETHING TO RE-ESTABLISH ITS AUTHORITY IN SOUTH LEBANON, THERE COULD ULTIMATELY BE A COMPLETE BREAKDOWN THERE.

3. LEPRETTE AGREED ON THE NEED FOR FURTHER APPROACHES TO THE ARABS, INCLUDING PLO, AND WAS GLAD TO HEAR OF THE ACTIONS WE WERE TAKING. HE SAID HIS GOVT HAD MADE DEMARCHE TO PLO, POINTING OUT IF UNIFIL WAS NOT PERMITTED TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE ISRAEL MIGHT NOT ONLY REFUSE TO WITHDRAW FURTHER BUT MIGHT RE-ADVANCE. FRENCH HAD ALSO CONTACTED CHRISTIANS ABOUT COOPERATION WITH UNIFIL, HE SAID, AND HAD TALKED TO SYRIANS IN DAMASCUS ABOUT RE-LEASING TAPLINE BUILDING IN AZ ZAHIRANI FOR USE AS UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS.

4. LEPRETTE ALSO AGREED WITH LEONARD'S VIEW THAT ARAFAT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01956 152111Z

PLAYING A "DOUBLE GAME" IN SAYING DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. HE THOUGHT LEONARD'S PLAN TO TALK WITH KUWAITI AMB BISHARA (SEPTTEL) WAS A GOOD IDEA AND THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO POINT OUT TO BISHARA THAT THIS TWO-FACED STANCE BY ARAFAT WAS NOT IN THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. MCHENRY

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